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### UM student to study geologic history of East Lily Mine near Whitehall

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### UM STUDENT TO STUDY GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF EASTER LILY MINE NEAR WHITEHALL

MISSOULA--

A University of Montana student in geology, Larry French, will collect and study vertebrate fossils from the Easter Lily Mine near Whitehall this summer through a \$1,000 UM Watkins Scholarship.

French, a UM senior originally from Mead, Wash., said the primary purpose of his study is to use the fossils to describe the boundary between geological formations made in the Chadronian and Orellan Ages, approximately 30 to 40 million years ago.

As part of his research, French will map the surface exposure and stratigraphy of the site and make collections of land mammal fossil species. He said that the fossils would be catalogued into the permanent UM Vertebrate Paleontology Collection, which is used for research and course work. Part of French's laboratory work will include identification and comparison of the fossils.

French said that his research should expand the existing geologic knowledge of the Jefferson River basin.

Faculty adviser for French's project is Dr. Robert Fields, UM professor of geology.

French is a 1961 graduate of Mead Senior High School in Mead Wash.

A total of 114 UM students have been awarded the competitive Watkins scholarships since the honors program began in 1978 based on their prior academic achievements and the quality of their research proposals. The scholarship funds come from the \$353,000  
(over)



UM STUDENT TO STUDY GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF EASTER LILY MINE--add one  
Gordon and Anna Watkins Endowment at UM.

Gordon Watkins was a 1914 UM alumnus who was a Welsh coal miner before he immigrated to the United States in 1906.. He received the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918 and an honorary doctor of laws degree from UM in 1940.

Watkins taught in Illinois and California universities and was provost of the University of California at Riverside until 1956. He also authored several books and articles on economics and labor relations and was a federal arbitrator and international consultant in economics. While at UM, Anna Davis Watkins was secretary to the UM president and graduated in English in 1915. Both died in 1970.

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